



Media release

Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment
The Honourable Curtis Pitt

25 April 2017

New Skytrans schedule will change lives in Cape York

Skytrans has celebrated its second birthday under the ownership of Peter Collings and Johnathan Thurston by unveiling a new flight schedule which will see same day services introduced into some of the most remote communities around Cape York.

Treasurer Curtis Pitt said this announcement was an unprecedented commitment to Cape York that will change lives, especially in terms of access to health clinics and facilities.

“I am thrilled that for the first time ever an airline will be offering fifteen same day return services into seven remote communities,” Mr Pitt said.

“They are Aurukun, Lockhart River, Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw, Coen, Horn Island and Weipa.

“Skytrans’ new schedule will also enable patients from Aurukun, Lockhart River, Kowanyama and Pormpuraaw to fly to Weipa for day treatment at a Health Clinic – as opposed to flying into Cairns – which often means an overnight stay.

“Residents using the Local Fares Scheme will have more access to discounted flights as the new schedule will increase capacity.”

Services for the new schedule commence from Tuesday 2nd May 2017 with bookings available now.

Skytrans CEO Michael Thinee said the new schedule would propel businesses and lift services in the Cape York and Torres Strait.

“We have been working with communities and really listening to what they need us to provide,” Mr Thinee said.

“The clear message was they needed daytrip access into communities, so suppliers/services and passengers can visit a community and complete their business within the day.

“The new schedule will save clients thousands of dollars in private charters, they will now have the convenience and cost savings of just booking a return day trip on our service.”

Skytrans’ now employs a team of 141 people and provides an economic benefit in excess of \$15 million dollars.



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The company's commercial operations across the Cape and Torres Strait extends to philanthropic engagement and community development.

“Our biggest achievement to date is the economic benefit we are putting back into North Queensland, and our social investment of \$960,000 in community sponsorships,” said Mr Thinee.

“Our sponsorships range from major events to grass roots programs and are all designed to improve the wellbeing of our neighbouring communities.”

The schedule has also improved commuting time for passengers, who will be on-board for no more than two stops between departure and the final arrival destination.

Media contact: 0419 945 546